

Outdoor Report

The week of October 13th, 2014



South Dakota



Wildlife Division

"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"

➤ **Regular Pheasant season starts October 18th and runs until January 4th.**

Brown County



Fishing Report:

Richmond Lake: Fishing has been slow. Some anglers are catching the occasional bluegill. **Anglers are reminded that Walleye need to be 15 inches or longer to keep.**

Elm Lake: Anglers are catching walleye, crappie and northern pike. The bite has been inconsistent lately. **Anglers are reminded that Walleye need to be 15 inches or longer to keep.**

James River: Anglers have been catching catfish and bullheads. The walleye bite has not started this fall.

Elm River: Fishing has been slow lately. Some catfish have been caught by the bridges.



Hunting Report:

Pheasants: Hunters were seeing good groups of birds throughout Brown County. Hunters still had to work to get a limit of birds. Most hunters had success in the later part of the evening.

Goose: Hunters have had decent success lately hunting geese. Hunters have had the best success hunting geese in wheat stubble. Scouting is the key to success. The best goose hunting has been on the eastern side of Brown County. Most silage and bean fields have been harvested, providing some field hunting opportunities.

Dove: With the recent cold temperatures, the doves have migrated out of the area.

Duck: Hunters had good success this weekend hunting ducks. Most hunters hunted ducks in the small sloughs over decoys. Hunters were harvesting gadwall, redheads, pintails, mallards and green-winged teal have shown up.

Swan: Swans have been showing up in large numbers in NE Brown County.

Deer: Bow Hunters have taken to the field more regularly with the colder temperatures and less mosquitoes.

Clark County



Fishing Report:

Dry Lake #2: Fishing has really slowed down, very few fish to none are being caught.

Dry Lake #1: Little activity

Swan Lake: Little activity

Baileys Lake: Little activity

Antelope Lake: Little activity

Reid Lake: Little activity.

Dekkers Slough: Little activity.

Casey's Slough: Little activity

Pepper Slough: Little activity.

Mankey's Slough: Little activity.

Carson's Slough: Little activity.

Indian Springs: Little activity.

Helgeson Slough: No activity.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: A few areas of the county have some good numbers of geese and ducks staged in them. Some ducks are moving in from the north. Hunters are reporting decent success.

Deer: Mornings and evenings seem to be the most active parts of the day. A few hunters have reported success.

Small Game: The states pheasant season opens this Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 12 noon central time.

Codington County



Fishing Report:

Lake Kampeska: No activity observed

Pelican Lake: No activity

Goose Lake: Good walleye bite from shore and boat – especially in the evening.

Long Lake: No activity observed

Grass Lake: No activity



Hunting Report:

Ducks: Public land was slower this week with lots of small ducks moving out of the area. Mallards are moving in and field hunting has improved.

Geese: Tough to find large concentrations of geese lately. Hunting success has been limited.

Pheasants: The Long Lake area offered great opportunity for the resident opener.

Day County



Fishing Report:

Bitter: Fishing pressure has picked up with anglers reporting good success catching keeper walleye. Anglers are still having some success catching a few walleye from shore as well.

Waubay: Cooler temperatures have assisted anglers in catching some nice walleye.

Reetz: Little pressure, with anglers catching a few walleye and crappie.

Lynn: Anglers are still having decent success catching some walleye and perch.

Enemy Swim: Fishing pressure has slowed.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Hunters are struggling somewhat to harvest geese. However, hunters who are putting the time in to scout and find recently harvested corn or beans fields seem to be having the most success.

Duck: Decent numbers of teal remain in the area with hunters still shooting mixed bags of limits. Both water and field hunters are seeing good success in harvesting ducks.

Deuel County



Fishing Report:

Lake Alice: Shore fishermen have been having a lot of success with walleye in the evening hours. Most of the walleye have been in the 16-19 inch range with the occasional fish over 20 inches. Most of the fishing pressure has been near the culvert on the southwest corner of the lake.

Please do not block the road near the culvert. Park in the road ditch and walk to the lake so that the landowner can get vehicles in and out.

Bullhead Lake: No activity

Round Lake: No activity

Lake Oliver: A few anglers have been fishing from the pier and catching a few perch and bullhead.

School Lake: No activity

Fish Lake: No activity

Lake Ketchum: Anglers continue to catch small perch with the occasional keeper mixed in.

Lake Cochrane: No activity

Clear Lake: Fishing has been slow. A few anglers have tried fishing from shore, but are mainly catching northern pike.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose – It appears that more geese have moved into the area in the last week. The Clear Lake area has a large number of geese. There are also good numbers of geese in the northern half of the county, primarily the northwest corner.

Duck: Duck numbers are average around the county. Hunting pressure has been low.

Pheasant: Pheasant hunters found some success during the resident only season this past weekend. Hunting pressure was not very heavy. Finding birds remains difficult, but there are certainly more birds this year than last year.

Faulk County



Fishing Report:

Lake Faulkton: No fishing activity observed.



Hunting Report:

A lot of the soybeans have been harvested, and farmers are starting to harvest corn now as well.

Canada goose: There are a few pockets of birds in the eastern and northern portions of the county. Scouting is key to finding the fields they are feeding in.

Duck: The most ducks are in northern and eastern Faulk County.

Dove: Most of the doves have migrated south.

Pheasant: Hunters had good success over resident opener weekend. They had the best luck later in the afternoon towards evening.

Grant County



Fishing Report:

Big Stone Lake: The perch bite continues to be good. The fishermen seem to be focusing on the central portion of the lake now. Shore fishermen are even finding success catching a few perch. I have not heard any reports of walleye being caught, but most anglers are targeting the perch.

Summit Lake: No reports of activity.

Hunter's Quarry: Fishing pressure has been low, but the opportunity to catch trout still exists.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose: Canada goose numbers continue to be good throughout the county. Hunting pressure has been low. Scouting continues to be important.

Ducks: Duck numbers are average throughout the county. Many of the blue-winged teal have moved out of the area.

Pheasant: Success this past weekend was relatively low. Hunting pressure was low as well. Hunters are going to have to work hard and walk a lot to find success.

Hamlin County



Fishing Report:

Lake Poinsett: No activity observed.

Fedt Slough: Some activity from shore, reports have been consistent with a few large walleye.

Three Buck: No fishing activity.

Lake Norden: No fishing activity.

Lake Albert: No fishing activity.

Lake Mary/John: No fishing activity.



Hunting Report:

Ducks: Hunters are having better luck in the fields than on water lately. We are seeing some new birds moving into the area.

Geese: Bean harvest is offering new opportunities for field hunters. Not tons of honkers around this weekend however.

Pheasants: Hunter numbers were dismal around the county but Sioux Poinsett and Mickelson provided some birds.

Marshall County



Fishing Report:

White Lake: Little to no activity.

Piyas Lake: Anglers are catching perch and walleye in the mornings and evenings.

Opitz Lake: Great walleye fishing in the morning and evenings. The boat anglers seem to be having the best success. **Reminder: 15 inch minimum on Walleye.**

South Buffalo: Anglers are still catching decent numbers of bluegill, crappie and the occasional northern. The fishing has slowed a bit.

Stink Lake: Slow.

Cattail Grade: Slow.

Roy Lake: The smallmouth bass and largemouth bass bite and northern bite is decent, but overall, slow.

Clear Lake: Good smallmouth bass bite, but fishing for other species has slowed down. **Reminder: If you catch a tagged Smallmouth Bass – do not remove the tag; call the number listed on the tag to assist in the current study being conducted on this lake.**



Hunting Report:

Duck: The duck hunting across the county continues to be decent. The bean harvest is nearly complete and a few farmers are starting on corn. As the corn comes out of the fields the birds will group up and hunting will get better. At this point in the season the hunters that are hunting water are generally doing the best.

Goose: I have observed a significant increase in Canada Goose numbers across the county. The highest population of geese is located in the NE portion of the county. Those who are scouting and getting permission for fields are generally doing well.

Deer: The deer have really been on the move with the cool weather. As the corn harvest begins, the deer will become more visible.

Swans: Good numbers of swans in the county. The highest number of swans is in the eastern ½ of the county. If I had to guess, we would be very close to peak swan migration. Be sure to obtain permission before entering private land.

McPherson & Edmunds Counties



Fishing Report:

Scatterwood Lake: Very little fishing activity.

Long Lake: No activity.

Eureka Lake: No activity.

Mina Lake: Very little fishing activity.

Anderson Slough: No activity.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Not too many hunters throughout both counties. Most hunters had success in the evening. Hunters had to work to get a limit of birds.

Goose: McPherson County is not holding very many geese. Most geese in this area can be found from Roscoe to Bowdle and up to the Hosmer area. There is very little hunting pressure. Hunters hunting in wheat fields are doing the best. Silage is still being cut and geese are starting to use these fields.

Dove: Most have migrated south due to the colder temperatures.

Grouse: Grouse numbers are low. McPherson County is the best place to try.

Duck: Good numbers of ducks in both counties. The Ipswich to Bowdle area and south of HWY 12 is holding the largest concentration of ducks. Some good pockets of ducks can be found in both counties. There are still a few blue-winged teal in both counties.

Swan: Some swans have already been seen in the Eureka and Long lake areas.

East River Deer: There are still antlerless deer licenses available in Edmunds and McPherson counties. (As of October 7th)

Sandhill Crane: A few cranes started to show up in McPherson County. The central parts of both counties are seeing the highest number of cranes.

Roberts County



Fishing Report:

Lake Traverse: The white bass and catfish bite has been good. Anglers are also picking up a few bluegill throughout the lake and walleye in the northern portion of the lake & the Mystinka River portion.

Dry Wood Lake: Walleye fishing is picking up and the northern pike bite is good. No real pressure observed.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Numbers are good throughout the county. As more corn gets cut for silage, the opportunity for hunters will open up. Scouting is the key to success.

Duck: There are good numbers of ducks in the county. Most hunters had good luck hunting water due to warm temperatures. Some field hunters did find some birds, but it was slow.

Grouse: Grouse numbers are low, but a few can be found on the coteau.

Pheasant: Resident only season was slow – few birds were harvested.

Spink County



Fishing Report:

Twin Lake: Anglers are still catching an occasional walleye.

Mud Lake: No fishing activity observed.

Cottonwood Lake: Anglers are catching good numbers of walleyes. The bite is best towards the evening hours.

Redfield Lake: No fishing activity observed

Turtle Creek: No fishing activity observed.

James River: Anglers are catching some walleyes.



Hunting Report:

Goose: There are pockets of geese scattered throughout the county. The northern part of county is the best.

Duck: The local ducks have grouped up to some larger groups. There are a few new ducks in the area as well. Hunters are having decent luck on sloughs.

Dove: Most of the doves have migrated south

Pheasant: Hunters had decent luck on resident opener weekend. There is still a lot of corn unharvested, which is holding a lot of birds.